S. D. Nickerson
Masonic Temple.

Volume IV.
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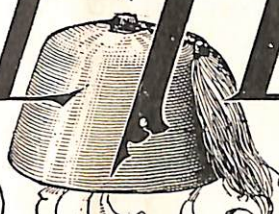
JULY, 1896.

THE FREEMASON AND THE FEZ



In the interests of Freemasonry and the Mystic Shrine in North America.

JOHN WESTLEY GEIGER,
EDITOR.

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The FREEMASON

In the Interests of Freemasonry and Concordant Orders in Iowa.

VOLUME IV. CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, JULY, 1896. NUMBER 7.

SIR T. R. ERCANBRACK,
GRAND COMMANDER OF IOWA.

THOMAS RUSSELL ERCANBRACK.

This month we present the portrait of this well known Knight Templar, and with it a brief sketch of his Masonic history.

He was born August 19, 1832, at Ephratah, Fulton county, N. Y. By profession he is a lawyer, the firm name being Remley & Ercanbrack, in the city of Anamosa, Ia. He was initiated Dec. 10, 1860, passed Jan. 8, 1861, and raised Feb. 11, 1861, in Peoria Lodge No. 15, of Peoria, Ill. He was exalted as a R. A. M. October 29, 1864. He has been High Priest of Mt. Sinai Chapter No. 66 of Anamosa, since 1872, nearly a quarter of a century. He has been Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, and Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter (1886-87). He is a Past Grand Patron O. E. S. of Iowa, and has served for several years in elective offices of the Grand Commandery of Iowa, being at the date of this item V. E. Deputy Grand Commander.

Sir Thomas was Knighted in Crusader Commandery, at Rockford, Illinois, July 5, 1867. He is a member of Iowa Concistory No. 2, A. A. S. R., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and a Noble of El-Kahir Temple N. M. S. He is perhaps most widely known by his terse and poetic manner as "correspondent" of the Grand Chapter of Iowa, where he has through the years of his chairmanship sent out the crisp and enjoyable product of the pen of a ready writer.

MASONIC CONGRESS.

A National Masonic Convention was held at Baltimore, Md., in May, 1843, at which a set of rules were adopted setting forth the proposed powers of the triennial convention. The plan was to commit the uniformity of work, uniform certificates of good standing; hearing and deciding questions of difference between Grand Lodges, when submitted to them; to adopt and enforce rules for its own government and determine the time and place of each succeeding triennial meeting. One representative from each co-operating Grand Lodge was to be appointed, properly attested. The rules were to be in force when thirteen or more Grand Lodges adopted them. The Grand Lodge of Iowa by resolution adopted Jan. 9, 1845. In 1846 resolutions were adopted favoring the holding of a general convention in Winchester, Va., and the appointment of a delegate to attend (without expense to the Grand Lodge). J. R. Hartsock, D. G. M., attended this convention. So few attended that nothingwas done. In 1847 the Grand Secretary was instructed to collect and report all the arguments for and against, that proper action might be taken at the next annual communication. In 1848, on the recommendation of a committee, the constitution of the Supreme Grand Lodge of the United States was adopted for Iowa; In 1850 still another form recommended by Rhode Island, was approved and adopted. At a convention held in Chicago in September 1859, attended by three Iowa delegates, G. M., J. G. W., and G. Sec'y, a new plan of organization to be known as the "North American Masonic Congress," to meet triennially was adopted. The minutes of this "congress" are printed in Iowa proceedings for 1860, p. 273–277. The Grand Lodge voted at this session (p. 306) not to enter into the articles of association of the "congress."

GOT THE QUAKERS.

Some brother in Philadelphia sent us a copy of *Taggart's Times* of June 7, 1896, marked "give the fraud a notice and send copy." This time its a woman, "rather tall and slender build, with a *tawny* face and a mouth made conspicuous by gold filled teeth." She's forty-five and her "con" name was Jennie Conwell, and she had a "pard" who is much younger than she. She claimed to be the widow of Henry Conwell of Lodge No. 200, of Kansas City, Mo.

[There is no lodge of that number in Kansas City.—*Ed.*]

Give the woman a warm reception everywhere as she is certainly a fraud.

EGYPTIAN LORE.

"The Egyptians called their dwellings 'lodgings' because they are only occupied for a short time; their tombs they called 'eternal houses' because their occupants never left them. This is why they took so little pains to decorate their houses whilst they neglected nothing that could enhance the splendor of their tombs."

The bull, as a symbol, appeared in the earliest ages of Egyptian history.

The bull is the favorite name for a king or a god, and we may easily understand how an ancient agricultural people were impressed by the characteristic qualities of an animal, which, in might, courage, and the terror he inspires when angry, as well as the protection and other relations he holds to the herd, stood with certainty chief to all his surroundings and master of the position.

The later worship of the animal itself was only the triumph of the symbols.

As the country becomes more thickly inhabited the need for new lodges increases accordingly. In former years, by reason of the sparsley-settled condition of the country, a large territory was required to support a lodge, and the members would travel long distances to attend lodge meetings. This condition is now greatly changed, and there are few instances where members of lodges are required to travel more than seven or eight miles to attend a meeting. If they were required to do so, the result would be that they would seldom attend, and would get but little benefit from membership in the order.

I believe it is much better for the interest of the fraternity, as well as for the interest of its individual members, that in all cases where the population of the country justifies it, lodges should be established sufficiently near to each other to give to every member a Masonic home within a reasonable distance, not greater than seven or eight miles, —*Grand Master Ball, 1896.*

OUR BOOK TABLE.

THE EVIDENCES OF FREEMASONRY—From Ancient Hebrew Records, in three lectures on the three Degrees, by Rabbi, Brother J. H. M. Chumaceiro, published by request. This is a well written pamphlet of 47 pages, giving three lectures at length on the degrees of Masonry. It is a work that every Masonic student will want in his library. Address Rev. J. H. M. Chumaceiro, 307 Center St., Augusta, Ga.

ANCIENT EMBLEMS OF BEAUTY—Being an exposition of the twelfth chapter of Ecclesiastes by Rev. R. Venting, with an introduction by T. S. Parvin, LL. D. Grand Secretary, published by Sylvan Lodge 507, A. F., & A M., Denison, Iowa. The sermon was delivered before the members of the lodge Jan. 19, 1896. It is an able effort and will undoubtedly be suggestive and helpful to the craft. Worshipful Masters will find it valuable as greatly enriching their understanding of the versicles used in the Masters Degrees. Address Henry A. Cook, Denison, Iowa.

PROCEEDINGS—Of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, for 1896, by the courtesy of M. E. Grand Secretary Comp. Charles Cary, Phila., Pa. It is a volume, uniform with the proceedings of previous years, compiled and printed with the ability and taste characteristic of our native state.

TRUE TO THE VOWS.

The reason some of us are more observant of the seriousness of conduct of the Templar who forgets his vows, is because we have been called upon to commit each paragraph of the ritual to memory. No Sir Knight can be true to his simplest call of duty without a consciousness of well doing, and he cannot neglect any of them without great harm. The duty is dual—to his fraters and to himself.

There are fifty grand chapters of Royal Arch Masons, with a total membership of 199,580.

THE MYSTIC BOND.

We read in the book of Ruth concerning their manner of changing and redeeming, that "to confirm all things a man plucked off his shoe and gave it to his neighbor." That was a testimony in Israel. This therefore we do, testifying in the strongest manner possible the sincerity of our intentions in the work in which we are engaged. —*Monitor.*

COMMENDS ITSELF.

Whatever brings to us "amendment of life" for the better, commends itself to our calmest judgment. No man should allow informed or onbrought prejudices to darken his vision against the sight of this fact. Freemasonry must appear to the most casual critic of its literary wealth as a candidate for favor along this line. Its votaries become not only wiser but better men as they learn its true worth. We cannot but approve its principles as productive of a desire to be better and do better. Being an institution born of human conditions it must remain open to the chances of frailty in parts of application but not in principles. Its teachings are founded upon the Holy Bible and for that alone are commendable.

FEWER MASONS IN S. DAKOTA.

REPORT OF THE GRAND SECRETARY SHOWS A DECREASE FOR THE YEAR.

HURON, S. D., June 9.—Special Telegram.—To-day's session of the Masonic Grand Lodge of this state was occupied in the reading and considering of reports of officers. In his address Grand Master Files of Sioux Falls paid a touching tribute to the illustrious dead in this and other jurisdictions, and especially to the late J. W. Orcutt, of Chamberlain, who was grand senior steward. The address showed that dispensations were granted for two new lodges, one at Bellefourche and one at Castlewood. Twenty-seven special dispensations, also, were issued. Five new lodges were instituted: Fort Pierre, Yankton, Hurley, Hudson, and Canistota. Grand Secretary Pettigrew, of Flandreau, reported a decrease in membership during the year, although the degree work had increased. The number raised, admitted, and restored was 374, while the number suspended or died was 409. The liabilities of the several lodges amounts to $7,667.54, assets $55,659.86. Four lodges own their own buildings, and six own a third interest or more. The receipts and disbursements of the Grand Lodge for the year amounted to $3,092.88. The Masonic library at Flandreau has been materially increased and all records are kept in fireproof vaults.

THE CHURCH AND THE LODGE.

In our civilization there is room and need for the church and the lodge. Each are allies, though working on somewhat different lines, and while some may prefer the work of the one, this is no argument against the other. There should be no monopoly in, or fear of competition in good works.

It has been sometimes suggested that lodge members who are active as such are not as a rule active churchmen. While we do not think this criticism is just, we presume all will agree that if one has not the inclination to work in the church it is better for him to be identified with a lodge than to be outside of organization and association, having for its object the welfare of humanity.—*Lodge Secret.*

A great deal of stress is laid in some lodges as to the particular passage at which the Sacred Writings should be opened in the various degrees. Dr. Oliver suggests the following: First degree, Psalms, cxxiii.; Ruth, iv.; Genesis, xvi.; xxii.; xxvii.; or 2d Samuel, xxiv. Second degree, 1st Kings, vi.; 2d Chronicles, iii.; or Judges, xii. Third degree, 2d Chronicles, iii. or vi.

Dr. William Salmon, of Glamorgan, Wales, is 107 years old. He is the oldest living Mason.

STORY OF MOHAMMED.

Mohammed was born in the City of Mecca. He was the child of Arabia. He came from the tribe of Koresh, the family of Hasham, Princess of Mecca. The holy city which gave him birth, unlike Bethlehem or Nazareth, was distinguished for its wealth and war-like spirit, and had long been governed by the family of Koreshites from whom he himself sprang. The Arabians were then a nation of idolators, worshiping the sun and stars, and all turning toward Mecca and her ancient temple, the Kaaba, as to the shrine of the greatest sanctity, though defiled by 360 images of eagles, men, antelopes, and lions. Mohammed's mother was of Jewish birth, and his father, Abdallah, has been called the most beautiful and modest youth of Arabia. Both parents died when Mohammed was in infancy, and the orphan was placed under the guardianship of his uncle, Abu Taleb. From boyhood he was given to heavenly conversation, wandering the deserts in melancholy meditations. Distinguished for his personal beauty, he was polite, respectful, judicious, courageous in thought and action, and, though he could neither read nor write, was a master of fine Arabian eloquence.

"In the birth of Mohammedanism we have," as Renan has said, "the strange spectacle of a religion coming into being in the clear light of day." We behold its founder both inheriting and creating those convictions which he molded into the system bearing his name, claiming that what he said was not new, but old, and yet receiving additional revelations for the guidance of mankind. His nature was strongly religious, and naturally high and pure, and we are not surprised that, when he discovered the guardians of the sacred temple in Mecca to be covetous deceivers, his heart turned from their corrupt superstitions.

I think Mohammedanism has been the perpetuation of the virtues and vices of its founder. The prophet of Islam was a man of great intellectual vigor, of naturally sincere, devout and lofty mind, whom opposition changed into a persecuting fanatic, not worse, however, than Torquemada or the Duke of Alva, and many others who have borne the Christian name; and, instead of growing better with age, he grew worse, and he who had been in early manhood the faithful husband of one wife, as he grew older, conformed more nearly to the vicious habits prevailing among the Arabian polygamists. He represented a higher type of morality than the national Arabian thought has reached, and he appeared as the prophet of a more spiritual religion and a reformer of abuses. But his chief power over men sprang from his phophetic grasp of a great truth, his fiery, intense conviction of it, his whole-souled response to the reality of a personal God, the sovereign of the world.

"Islam," says Carlyle, "means that we must submit to God, to know and believe well, that the stern thing which necessity has ordered was the wisest, the best. This is the soul of Islam; it is properly the soul of Christianity, for Islam is definable as a confused form of Christianity." We believe, however, that Christianity means far more than this, and yet we must not fail to recognize the deep spiritual significance of that movement by which Mohammed created a nation and turned them into zealous propagandists of the faith. Grafted into the spiritual stock were other forces, which soon corrupted what was originally pure; the forces that spring from the love of conquest and plunder and pleasure. These spiritual and unspiritual powers, linked together, made the disciples of Mohammed perhaps the most terrific military hosts ever let loose upon the world."—*Dr. Barrows.*

The St. John's Day League of Kentucky has been reorganized for this year and expects to excel its good work of last year for the Masonic Home, the net amount of which was $4316.46.

IOWA MASONIC EXCHANGE.

We are frequently asked to find out whether some way cannot be devised by which an exchange of Annals and Proceedings of the various Grand bodies can be made. We will give this space for the purpose of calling attention to the matter.

Consignments of duplicates can be made to us (if prepaid) and we will return all numbers wanted by the consigners, and continue to do so as fast as their wants come in, in the order of registry. This is not done for profit but to encourage the formation of libraries by bodies and individuals.

WANTED.

Brother Wm. Elsom, Cedar Rapids, wants 1884 Grand Chapter Iowa O. E. S. Also offers $1.00 each for originals of Grand Lodge of Iowa for 1844, '46, '47.

We Want:—Proceedings Imperial Council N. M. S., all previous to 1885. State price. Also Grand Chapter O. E. S. of Iowa, for 1883, '84.

FOR SALE.

Four bound copies of the *Iowa Freemason and Knight Templar*, Vol. 1 and 2, cloth, plain. Bound in one volume. Price $1.50 each, carriage free.

FOR EXCHANGE ONLY.

Iowa G. L. Proceedings 1856; '69 (3); '70, '72, '73, '75, '84, '86 (2); '88 (2); '89 (3), '90 (2); '91 (3); '92; '93, 94 (2); '95.

Iowa Grand Chapter 1869, '72 (2); '73 (3); '74 (3); '75 (3); '76 (2); '77 (3); '78 (3); '79, '80 (3); '81 (2); '82, '83, '85 (2); '86 (2); '87 (2); '89, '90, '91 (2); '92 (2); '93.

Iowa Grand Commandery, 1882, '84, '87, '88, '89, '90, '91 (2); '92 (3); '93 (3); '94, '95.

Imperial Council N. M. S., 1887, '93 (2); '94, '95 (2).

Correspondence solicited.

JNO. W. GEIGER.

Marion, Iowa.

MASONIC NOTES.

For the first time in 25 years the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania officially visited Oil City recently.

Prominent members of the fraternity in Jersey City have formed a permanent organization with the purpose of erecting a Masonic temple to cost not less than $100,000.

Freemasonry in the German Empire is rather complicated, says the *Masonic Herald*, there being no less than eight Grand Lodges exercising their sway, all of which are legal and duly recognized. There are also a number of lodges working independently of any of the Grand Lodges.

The great "Irish liberator," Daniel O'Connell, was a zealous Mason and W. M. of lodge 189, Dublin. In 1838 he was induced by the clergy of his church to withdraw from the Order.

Sir Cassius M. Barnes is now Grand Commander of the grand commandery of Oklahama, and Sir Harper S. Cunningham Grand Recorder.

Royal Arch Lodge No. 2, of New York, recently held its 136th annual meeting. In all these years of its existence it has never failed to hold a meeting.

The Indiana *Freemason* tells of a successful objection to the installation of a worshipful master elect. He had not attended a lodge meeting for some years, and so he was not considered fit to fill the office. The same paper tells of a candidate who objected to the preparation for initiation, but who, by a prudent and apt Past Master, was induced to submit, and who after learning the reasons of the requirements, developed a fitting interest in the ceremonies. In each case the result justified the action adopted.—*Voice of Masonry*.

THE LODGES.

GRAND LODGES MEET.

Iowa, Oskaloosa, June 1, 1897.

GRAND OFFICERS.

GEO. W. BALL ..... GRAND MASTER
Iowa City.
Thos. Lambert ..... Senior Grand Warden
Sabula.
Chas. Clapp Clark ..... Junior Grand Warden
Burlington.
Jerome Merrill Woodworth ..... Grand Treasurer
Marshalltown.
Thodore Sutton Parvin ..... Grand Secretary
Cedar Rapids.

APPOINTED.

W. L. Eaton ..... Deputy Grand Master
Osage
Newton R. Parvin ..... Deputy Grand Secretary
Cedar Rapids.
Rev. P. V. D. Vedder ..... Grand Chaplain
Boone.
Theodore Schreiner ..... Grand Tyler
Mt. Pleasant.
J. F. Grote ..... Seenior Grand Deacon
Crawford.
W. B. Davis ..... Junior Grand Deacon
Lewis.
Wm. Lamb ..... Grand Marshall
Northwood.
C. A. Hough ..... Senior Grand Steward
Red Oak.
J. J. Thompson ..... Junior Grand Steward
Beacon.

CUSTODIANS.

C. T. Granger, (1899) Prest., Des Moines.
G. B. Van Saun, (1897) Secretary, Cedar Falls.
W. P. Allen, (1901) Dubuque.

COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE.

L. C. Blanchard ..... Oskaloosa
Crom Bowen ..... Des Moines
C. W. Neal ..... Stuart

TRUSTEES GRAND CHARITY FUND.

Trustee—Term Expires 1897.
E. C. Blackmar ..... P. G. M., Chairman
Burlington.
Trustee—Term Expires 1898.
R. G. Phelps ..... P. G. M., Treasurer
Atlantic.
Trustee—Term Expires 1899.
J. D. Gamble ..... P. G M., Secretary
Knoxville.

COMMITTE ON FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE.

J. C. W. Coxe, D. D.
Washington.

A GOOD THING.

The practice of making the Masonic Festivals of June 24, and Dec. 27, (St. John's days) of more than local interest, is growing, and it is a good thing. About a dozen calls came to us personally this summer to participate in one of such gatherings. From five to twenty lodges have united in a "Masonic Association." The program is largely intended to inspire the fraternal and social phases of the Order. It supplies in a great measure what is lacking, for want of time and talent in the school work. The membership is brought into contact by service on committees and in the reading of short papers on Masonic subjects. In short notwithstanding the immense number of "conventions" of other kinds the "Masonic Association" as started in Iowa is a good thing and has come to stay.

TROJAN 548.

This new member of the Iowa Lodges was instituted in due form on June 11, 1896, by Brother William Elsom, as Deputy Grand Master. The occasion was one of peculiar interest to the members of the Lodge. After the election of officers, the doors were thrown open and the ladies admitted to hear the impressive ceremony of our public installation. The only changes in officers was Senior Warden, to which Brother P. M. Plumb was elected vice W. Bro. E. I. Alderman, who declined re-election. After the installation refreshments were served in the dining hall and speeches made by a number of the visiting guests.

THE CUSTODIAN'S WORK.

In the appendix to his annual address (1896) Grand Master Ball gives the report of the Visiting Custodian and in it we find this item of interest:

"There is no doubt in my mind but what all the lodges need some instruction, and should be visited, but under our present system—voluntary invitations on the part of the particular lodges—many lodges needing said instruction, because of the little expense, do not obtain it. I do believe the Grand Lodge should set aside a sufficient appropriation to cover hotel and traveling expenses so that the lodges referred to could be visited."

We have heretofore urged upon the attention of the craft the advantages to this neglected class of "district schools" of instruction, in which the exemplification of the work should be the principal but not the exclusive order. There is now some evidence of experience to show that these district schools would cost less and do much more good. It is of interest generally that this question be thought upon and talked over.

ST. JOHN'S DAY.

It was with great regret that we were compelled to miss the celebration of this day (June 24) with some one or more of our Iowa lodges.

From the program of Myrtle Lodge 355 we gather that Seymour must have been a lively place with "Hon." Brother Geo. Van Saun as the afternoon speaker.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the North Central Masonic Association was held at Ruthven, Iowa, with Grand Master Ball as the speaker. They had a splendid time.

At Carroll, over twenty lodges were represented in the exercises and a large attendance is reported. No particulars.

We aim to keep standing the regular appointments of the Grand Custodian, Brother Geo. B. Van Saun, and we shall have his corrections each month.

CUSTODIAN'S SCHOOLS.

CEDAR FALLS, Ia., July 6, 1896.

Dear Brother Geiger:

Since the meeting of the Grand Lodge at Boone, I have been at home taking a little required rest, so as to brace up for the work to be done during the coming fall. On June 23 and 24, I visited lodge No. 355 at Seymour, Wayne Co., where a general gathering of the Masons, their wives, daughters and cousins, with invited friends, was held on the 24th, St. John's day, and a general good time was had. The full day was given in the Park, with music, recitations, addresses by several brothers, with the usual picnic dinner, at which your humble servant did his best, especially the dinner. The officers and members of No. 355 acquitted themselves with great credit, especially Brother Burks Mumby, and the efficient secretary of the lodge, Rev. Brother King. On June 27 I visited Rock Lodge No. 294, at Nora Springs, where work was done in the second and third degrees; large delegations of the brethren were present from Charles City, Rockford and other towns. This week I will send out the usual circulars to the Lodges. Intended to have done so last week, but was used up from overwork from mowing my lawn. Will send list of appointments soon as made out.

Yours fraternally,

GEO. B. VAN SAUN.

BOARD OF CUSTODIANS A. F. & A. M. IN IOWA.

GEO. B. VANSAUN, P. G. M. Chairman and Secretary, Cedar Falls, Iowa.
CHAS. T. GRANGER, P. G. M., Des Moines, Iowa.
WILLIAM P. ALLEN, P. G. M., Dubuque, Iowa.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
CEDAR FALLS, Ia., June 24, 1896.

To the Masters, Wardens and Brethren of the particular Lodges, A. F. and A. M., under the Jurisdiction of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Iowa, Greeting:

In accordance with the usual custom, as heretofore practiced, invitations or calls will be received from lodges throughout the state, desiring the services of the Visiting Custodian to hold schools at places designated by them. These schools may be held by the individual lodge or by lodges in groups.

To expedite matters so far as laying out routes and reduce traveling expenses, lodges will please forward their invitations as early in the Masonic year as possible, giving their preference as to time and duration of schools to be held. The expense to lodges visited will be the same as heretofore, viz: $2.50 and hotel bill for each day's attendance, thereby serving all lodges near by or remote at the same cost.

Should above charges be more than traveling expenses require, a pro rata rebate will be made to the lodges contributing at the close of the year. Lodges that made calls last year, which for reasons could not be filled, also lodges not heretofore visited, will have preference as to time, provided applications are received on or before October 1, 1896.

Should special invitations be made, which would require attention outside of regular laid out routes, actual traveling expenses to and fro will be required.

GEO. B. VANSAUN,
Secretary Board of Custodians.
Post Office Address, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

COMMANDERIES.

CONCLAVES.

Grand Encampment, Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 1898.

SEVENTH DISTRICT (Grand Encampment) Iowa, Missouri and Ohio—Sir Knight Geo. M. Moulton, V. E., Grand Captain General, Chicago, Ill., Representative.

GRAND OFFICERS.

T. R. Ercanbrack	Anamosa.	GRAND COMMANDER
F. H. Loring	Oskaloosa.	Deputy Grand Commander
Geo. W. Bever	Cedar Rapids.	Grand Generalissimo
J. H. Pettibone	Burlington.	Grand Captain General
John W. Geiger	Marion.	Grand Prelate
D. M. Brownlee	Sioux City.	Grand Senior Warden
Alex. Peddie	Emmettsburg.	Grand Junior Warden
E. B. Shaw	West Union.	Grand Treasurer
Alf. Wingate	Des Moines.	Grand Recorder
L. T. Hawk	Dubuque.	Grand Standard Bearer
W. H. Hart	Sac City.	Grand Sword Bearer
Wm. Weldon	Iowa Falls.	Grand Warder
Theodore Shreiner	Mt. Pleasant.	Grand Sentinel

GRAND COMMANDERY.

TEMPLAR PARK NOTES.

The home of the Iowa Templars never looked more restful than it does this year. We found the Grand Commander on the Ground (July 8) when we arrived, hard at work getting things in order; a task a few men would care to undertake in sight of the labor involved. The new naptha launch "Lydia" noticed heretofore, greeted us with its capacious and inviting seats for more than one ride on the lake. It is the property of Grand Commander Lacy and Sir J. B. Atkins. A large number of those present this year came early.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

On the Sabbath, the usual religious services were held by the Grand Prelate and we want to thank those present for the courtesy of an almost unanimous attendance at the exercises, held in the rotunda of the great house.

MONDAY.

The day was spent in getting ready for to-morrow. The band, the ladies' of Eldora, came in on the evening trains. Some new faces were noted, some well known ones missed—but the band is no less popular than last year. In the evening one boat-load went to bathe while the band as a glee club entertained us with several popular songs.

TUESDAY MORNING.

At nine o'clock the Grand Captain General began the daily Asylum drill. At ten o'clock the Grand Commander assisted by his grand officers opened the thirty-third annual Conclave in ample form. Sir F. W. Craig served as Grand Standard Bearer in place of Sir F. E. Fuller deceased.

The Grand Commander read his annual address. The usual greetings were extended and all made welcome to this Templar summer home. But one of our Grand officers was called away by death this year, Sir F. E. Fuller, Grand Standard Bearer, died April 4, 1896. Forty-one Sir Knights, from twenty-seven commanderies have died. From Sister jurisdictions five Past Grand Commanders, one Post Deputy, one Grand Prelate, and one Grand Senior Warden have passed away. The leading events of the Grand Encampment were refered to.

DECISIONS.

"The holding of two offices at the same time is not legal. The spirit of Templar law and the force of custom preclude such a condition."

"There is no statue in our present Code covering this point." (Whether a Sir Knight is required to procure a uniform before taking the orders.) The statutes of the Grand Encampment do not require it; but they provide that "a law that does require it is valid." The resolution adopted by our Grand Commandery (1889) whereby each Subordinate Commandery is ordered to provide such a fee for receiving the Orders of Knight-hood as will enable such Commandery to procure a uniform for the Sir Knight is still in active and constitutes *a law.*" Both decisions were refered to the committee on jurisprudence.

Three new Grand Commanderies were organized the past year. Florida Aug. 15, Indian Territory Dec. 27, 1895, and the the District of Columbia Jan. 14, 1896. An exchange of representatives was recommended. The new Commanderies at Stuart (58) and at Le Mars (57) were instituted Aug. 16 and 17, 1895. We have had a substantial growth this year. The expense for the Triennial Encampment amounted to $1.193.00. Receipts including $500.00 appropriated last year $1,046,00. The shortage was recommended for appropriation and ordered paid.

The Grand Treasurer's report shows balance on hand last report - - $369.04.
Total Received, - - - 5.273.75.

$5.642.79.
Total paid out, - - - $5.235.82.
Balance on hand, - - - $406.97.

From the Grand Recorder's report we gleam that the returns of the total membership is 4,343 a net gain of 170 for 1895. The insurance on the park property and furniture is now $10.000. The new tactics are in print and for sale (25) by the Grand Recorder. The Grand Commander spoke most feelingly of the death of the estimable wife of Sir Alex. Peddie, Grand Sword Bearer, and a committee on memoirs was appointed, Sir Knights Geiger, Loring and Hart. They were also appointed on Necrology in general. It was ordered to refer a resolution to ask remission of taxes for our property, to the committee on jurisprudence. The sweltering heat brought a resolution to allow attendance in fatigue unforms. All Sir Knights in good standing, present were invited to sit with the Grand Commandery.

The Grand Commander announced that he had invited R. E. Sir G. M. Moulton of Illinois, inspector of this district to be present with us. The committee on Grand Commander's address reported. All not properly for the attention of other committees was approved. The six years accumulation of concordant proceedings were ordered bound if funds abound. Adjourned till 10 a. m. to-morrow.

TUESDAY EVENING.

The afternoon was one of the hotest ever experienced here; but the evening turned cool. Dress parade was held at 7:30 and the Grand officers' reception at 8:45 to 10 o'clock. Fireworks followed.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

At 9 a. m. the Grand Captain General, conducted the Asylum drill. At 10 a. m. the Grand Conclave resumed. In the reading of the minutes of yesterday the resolution on taxation of the park property was amended so as to instruct the committee (jurisprudence) to report next year.

The report of Dr. Coxe, correspondent, was received and ordered printed. Dr. Coxe offered a resolution recognizing the Grand Commanderies named yesterday and inviting the usual interchange of representatives.

The committee on credentials reported. The committee was continued.

The decisions of the Grand Commander were approved on the recommendation of the committee on jurisprudence.

The committee on code and digest reported. The revision will include all the rules and laws adopted to date—referred to committee on jurisprudence.

A committee of five was appointed to devise some method of extinguishing the bonded debt on the park property. Sir Knights Hyatt, Clements, Blackmar, Hawks, and Farnham.

AFTERNOON.

About the greatest fun producer so far was the game of base ball to which the Grand officers were challenged by the ladies' band. No lives lost, but P. G. C. Soule had his eye badly cut and Mrs. Sir John Crockett had her nose severely lacerated, the result of catching without masks in both cases.

EVENING.

The complimentary hop at the Orleans and the fireworks here closed the day.

THURSDAY MORNING.

The regular drill in the Asylum was held at 9 a. m.

Business was resumed at 10 a. m. The result of the discussion of the plans for the payment of the present debt was the adoption of instructions to pay the interest and five hundred dollars annually on the principal till all is paid. The revised statutes were ordered printed in this year's proceedings and will come up finally in 1897. The By-laws of Alhambra Commandery were approved except Sec. 3, (which conflicts with Sec. 9, P. 104 of the statutes.)

The Grand Commander announced the sad news of the death of Sir Knight L. P. Boas, at Eldora, whose daughters were here with the band; and Sir Knight Cox, presented a well timed resolution which was adopted by a standing vote.

Thirty-two Commanderies were represented. Twenty-four were not. The election of officers followed (see list at the head of this department.)

The new Tactics were formally adopted and are now in force. Suitable mermorial notice was taken of the death of Mrs. Alex. Peddie, wife of the Grand Junior Warden elect.

FRIDAY MORNING.

At 9 a. m. the regular asylum drill was conducted.

INSTALLATION.

At 10:30 the venerable Past Grand Commander, Dr. T. S. Parvin, installed the Grand officers elect. He was assisted by P. G. C., Sir D. W. Clements, as Grand Marshall. The ceremonies were public and attended by a large number of visitors.

CLOSING BUSINESS.

On resuming business, Past Grand Commander J. A. Colcord, of South Dakota, was received and accorded the usual honors. The Secretary of the Trustees of Templar Park reported:

On hand last year, - - $123.11
Receipts of the year, - - - 395.00

Total, - - - - - $518.11
Expenditures, - - - - $487.11

Balance on hand, - - - $31.00

The project to plant shade trees by personal subscription was reported on by P. G. Soule. The payment of $2 will secure a tree to be registered to the individual paying therefor. Forty-one trees are already subscribed for with more to follow.

The extension of the telephone line from West Side Hotel to this park was authorized by the trustees, provided no expense beyond the hire of the instrument be incurred.

The committee on finance reported.

The resolution to increase the annual per capita tax to $1.50 was presented as laid over last year, and indefinitely postponed.

The Grand Commandery was closed.

THE MASONIC GOAT.

BY MRS. W. L. COOPER.

On last "Ascension Day," St. Omer Commandery No. 15, of Burlington, Iowa, changed the order of exercises usually following the regular services, by having the ladies furnish the literary entertainment after the banquet, and for that purpose a committee of nine ladies were appointed—each of whom prepared and delivered an original essay or poem, or read a selection suited to the occasion.

Among the "gems" of the evening, the following parody on Poe's "Raven" written by Mrs. W. L. Cooper, was delivered in her usual happy style, to the great delight of all present, and by urgent request is here published, by her permission:

THE GOAT.

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I waited, lone and weary,
For my absent husband, gone to join the ancient Masons' corps,—
Suddenly my heart went jumping, for I heard a dreadful bumping
And a wierd and awful thumping, thumping at my front hall-door.
"Tis some drunken wretch," I muttered, "mistaking it for his hall-hoor;
Only this and nothing more."

Ah, distinctly I remember, it was not in bleak December,
But wet April, and it rained as it had never rained before.
Eagerly I watched the clock-hand, thinking that that horrid lodge-band
Surely would its members home land; sometime ere the night was o'er,—
Ere this ghastly ghostly night, this fearsome, gruesome night was o'er.
But a voice moaned, "Nevermore."

Soon the voice wailed loud and stronger and I could not stand it longer.
"Man," I screamed, "or demon maybe, get you gone from my front door.
Stop that everlasting thumping, or I soon will send you jumping,
With a shot I'll send you jumping, jumping headlong from my door."
Then I summoned all my courage and I opened wide the door.
Still the voice cried, "Nevermore."

Deep into the darkness peering, scared I stood there, trembling, fearing,
Feeling tremors which no mortal woman ever felt before.
Suddenly the lightning flashing, showed a shape that toward me dashing,
From his coat the raindrops splashing, entered in at my front door.
Without sign of recognition, took his stand upon the floor,
A goat it was, and nothing more.

Such a poor bedraggled Billy, that I could refrain but illy,
Having from my fright recovered, laughing at the mien he bore.
Not a sound or movement made he, on my best rug silent stayed he,
Till I really was afraid he would stand there forevermore.
While the water from him trickling, running on my hard-wood floor,
Spoiled my rug forevermore.

'Billy," said I, "beast uncanny, don't stand like some ancient granny,
In an attitude which never any goat assumed before.
Did some mishap sad befall you, did some demon mad enthrall you,
That uninvited you install you, where you ne'er have been before?
Do you mean to stay here always? Tell me, tell me, I implore."
Quoth the goat, "Forevermore "

This reply with sorrow spoken, with streaming eyes and accents broken,
Filled me with a consternation, which I had not felt before.
"Tell me, sirrah most respected, why appear you thus dejected,
Have you mayhap been ejected from some home you had before
From some happy home you had in hopeful, happy days of yore?"
"Yes," the goat replied, "and more."

"I was reared among my brothers in the hills with many others.
We were reared for noble purpose, so said they who looked us o'er.
Destined were we to take part in sacred rites of Masons' art in
Giving members their first start in mysteries ne'er known before.
In deep mysteries of ancient and accepted Masons' lore.
This to do forevermore.

'Twas a grievous change when lately, I was placed in chambers stately,
Taken from my childhood's quarters where I'd always lived before.
True they gave me kindly greeting when they heard my lonesome bleating
And at every lodge's meeting, there were things to eat galore.
Yet this was no compensation for my comrades loved of yore.
And I missed them evermore.

But to-night the worst befell me, lady kind I'd have you tell me
If in my place you could muster courage to return there more.
They a third degree were giving, to your husband as I'm living,
And he had to ride me whizzing, round and round about the floor.
While some brothers jeered and shouted others did but wildly roar.
Screamed and yelled and nothing more.

When I could not stand it longer, and the cries waxed loud and stronger,
They led me where an op'ning wide yawned deep and dark beneath the floor.
I must jump across this chasm, with my burden in a spasm,
Scared almost to protoplasm, at sight of water 'neath the floor.
His tremendous weight, oh lady, his tremendous weight I bore;
But I'll do it nevermore.

Just when I was madly leaping, my rider, scarce his balance keeping,
Clutching with both hands my wipdpipe, robbed me of my breath in store.
In the ice-cold water splashing went steed and rider helpless flashing,
The frightened Masons forward dashing their brother quickly hauled ashore.
And the horror-stricken Tyler, leaving without guard the door,
I escaped forevermore.

Down the frightful stairs I stumbled, down into the street I tumbled;
Stunned and bruised, my pride offended, every limb and muscle sore.
Up the hill I hastened running, till I saw your light was burning
And my footsteps toward it turning rested gladly at your door;
For my intuition told me, here was sympathy in store,
And I'll leave you nevermore."

Gaunt his goatship still is standing, by the stairway near the landing,
Visible to me his form is, motionless before the door.
Every lodge-night he keeps droning, echoing my inward groaning
And together we make moaning, cherishing our grievance sore;
Victims of the lodges' sessions, keep repeating o'er and o'er,
"Nevermore, nevermore!"

THE FREEMASON AND THE FEZ.

Published Monthly

In the interest of Freemasonry in Iowa and the Mystic Shrine in North America.

JOHN WESTLEY GEIGER, K. T., 32°, EDITOR.

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No. 206 First Avenue, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, JULY, 1896.

It is an unsafe thing to get a feeling of ownership in a local or grand Masonic body. It's not the fall, but lighting, that hurts this class.

It may not appear on the surface but nevertheless the most profitable course in all relations of Masonic life is that laid by the plum square and level.

Too many men unwittingly assist in belittling the honest fame of their self forgetful brethren who devote their time, their powers and their means to the good of the Order.

With the summer months as usual we find the Masonic news quite scarce but the interest up as high as the mercury. Masonry has no dry season, nor ought its work to fail at any season in the year.

"THE RING."

Many a "brother and fellow" gets greatly excited and incensed at what he feels is the dominance of "The Ring" in the management of the affairs of the craft. He struggles against them, tries his hand at similar tactics, is defeated, then retires to seclusion to nurse a wrath of language which he too frequently pours out to promiscuous and non-masonic ears. All this but complicates the conditions, and will continue to do so while the craft are at a standstill for something better to do. There may be "rings," they may be "running" the lodge or other body; but the relf respecting brother need not let them run him into confusion and denunciation. The time for the high minded brother to keep still and cool and be observant is when these things prevail in the "green tree." His day will come. He has his consolation in the inestimable privileges of Masonry. He can find work to do in the study of the vast system and erudite philosophy of the Order, and he can keep still. Had we a point in view and had we the influence to advise we would say just what we have written, and we would do all in the memory of those duties and obligations resting upon us personally which can never be repudiated or laid aside.

ANTE-COMMUNION.

We mean no disrespect to the good old ritual of the church from which the term that heads this article is taken. No idea enters our head even to liken the gathering of the workmen to the assembly of the saints for their religious mass; but we want to call attention to the good of the Master Wardens and other office bearers being in the lodge room before the time has arrived for the sound of the gavel to be heard in the East. They should tie on their aprons just as soon as they enter the ante-room; they are then "properly clothed" for work and we believe as much of the interest can be worked up here as after the lodge is opened in due form." Think of a brother who is timid, uninformed or a stranger, coming into the room and being met with a

cheerful salutation by the officers "duly and truly prepared." Think of the feeling of interest it must arouse to find that his early arrival is appreciated and that he is invited to don his apron and assist in welcoming all who follow. Is it not worth trying anyhow? Then, as the time draws near, to find the jewels of office distributed, the Deacons' and Stewards' rods in place, and all officers and brothers in a state of readiness to begin work, is it not really such a helpful feature that we may call it as going before the communication, the ante-communion.

PROGRESS BACKWARDS.

Every movement to tighten the lines and stiffen the forms of Masonry tends to move backwards. Let there be no cry or hue made against us until we have had our say. We're orthodox; we believe in the "faith once delivered to the saints" and all that. We revere the landmarks wherever they are discernable as such and we honor the fathers as much as any man ever did. But, when it comes to decide upon questions of importance to this day and generation we can see no sacredness in traditions mysteriously quoted as "the unwritten law;" that is, we can see no such sacredness as that to touch or supercede them would be sacrilege. The ancient constitutions plainly evidence the touch of the later interpreter in the article touching the question of God and religion and if it was not wrong to modify there it is equally appropriate to meet the advancing times in other particulars. To show that we move forward with the march of progress is comportent with the genius of Freemasonry, and whenever it becomes necessary for the better accomplishment of its true work let the structure go higher rather than lower. In this matter we are for liberality touching the questions of the day such as qualifications, jurisdiction and legislation and we deem any other position as progress backwards.

A. A. S. R.

There are Consistorial bodies of this Rite at Cedar Rapids, Clinton, Des Moines and Davenport.

The Fortieth Annual Conclave of Gourgas Chapter Rose Croix, of the Valley of Chicago, was held May 21, 1896, and the full report of the gathering together with the fine half tone illustrations is before us. Our thanks are due R. & P. Kt. Secretary, Gil. W. Barnard, 33°. The body is wonderfully prosperous.

MASONIC NOTES.

The grand commandery is a true and a loyal member of the great Masonic family.

The Masons of Seneca Falls are to erect a temple—one that the town will be proud of.

Lock Wing, Vice-Consul of the Chinese legation, was recently made a member of Hope Lodge, No. 244, New York.

The managers of the Michigan Masonic Home have ordered the institution closed. The 37 inmates must find other quarters.

Lieut. Robert E. Peary, the Arctic explorer, was raised to the Master Mason degree in Kane Lodge, No. 154, New York, last week.

The Duke of Wellington was a Freemason, and his father, Garrett, the first Earl of Mornington, was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1777.

In England all entered apprentices wear a plain white apron, a fellow craft has a blue rosette in each lower corner and blue strings, while Master Masons' apron has a blue rosette in each lower corner and one in the flap and a blue border to the apron tied with blue strings.

THE EASTERN STAR.

GRAND BODIES MEET:
Iowa Grand Chapter, Clinton, Oct. 28, 1896.

GRAND OFFICERS.

MRS. JENNIE RULE.....GRAND MATRON
Mason City.
E. B. DYKE.....GRAND PATRON
Charles City.
Mrs. M. B. Rathbun.....Associate Matron
Clinton.
Jno. W. Geiger.....Associate Patron
Marion.
Maria Jackson.....Grand Secretary
Council Bluffs.
Mrs. E. L. Houghton.....Grand Treasurer
Red Oak.
Mrs. Delia Meredith.....Grand Conductress
Newton.
Mrs. Adamson.....Associate Grand Conductress
Le Mars.

APPOINTED.

MRS. BADER.....GRAND CHAPLAIN
Clinton.
Mrs. Luella Usry.....Adah
Des Moines
Mrs. G. F. Claycomb.....Ruth
Farragut.
Miss Nellie Harris.....Esther
New Hampton.
Mrs. Alice Randall.....Martha
Algona.
Mrs. Stone.....Electa
Columbia.
Mrs. Kate D. Allin.....Warder
Iowa City.
Theodore Shreiner.....Sentinel
Mt. Pleasant.

FROM THE GRAND MATRON.

Three new links have been added to our chain. June 19th I organized at Manson, "Evening Light Chapter." Worthy Matron, Mrs. Hattie Keely; Worthy Patron, C. R. Nicholson; Secretary, Miss Nora Ebersol.

June 24th at Riverside, "Floral Chapter. Worthy Matron, Mrs. Molly M. Druf; Worthy Patron, Dr. J. C. Sheaf; Secretary, Mrs. P. F. Brockway.

June 25th Sigourney, "Espasia Chapter." Worthy Matron, Miss Lizzie Mackey; Worthy Patron, C. L. Crocker; Secretary, Miss Julia Trotter. Fraternally yours,

JENNIE A. RULE.

No two Chapters in Iowa have enjoyed any more enviable career than Marion 183, and Cedar 184. Fraternal visits between them are frequent and their growth continual. They are nearly one year old now.

The Grand Matron is still pressing her good work with characteristic energy, and new Chapters are being instituted as rapidly as the best interests of the Order will warrant.

THE MYSTIC SHRINE.

TRIBAL GATHERINGS.

Imperial Council, Detroit, Mich, June 8 and 9, 1897.
El-Kahir, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, (Annual) second Wednesday in December, 1896.
Kaaba, Davenport, Iowa, (Annual), first Tuesday in December, 1896.

TO THE NOBILITY.

For two years we have striven to keep up this department in the hope that it might grow to be of value enough to warrant the enlargement of the Magazine so as to give some twenty pages of general Shrine news and some articles from the able contributors among our Nobles. Some have taken our effort kindly, some indifferently, some with sarcasm. Now, we come to you wherever you may be and ask you to help us. 1 By subscribing for it. 2 By showing it to your friends.

RECORDERS are on our exchange list and will receive your subscriptions.

Yours Faithfully,
JOHN WESTLEY GEIGER, Editor.

IMPERIAL COUNCIL.

OFFICERS FOR 1896-7.

ELECTIVE.

HARRISON DINGMAN.....IMPERIAL POTENTATE
Washington, D. C.
A. B. McGaffey.....Imperial Deputy Potentate
Denver, Colo.
Ethelbert F. Allen.....Imperial Chief Rabban
Kansas City, Mo.
John H. Atwood.....Imperial Assistant Rabban
Leavenworth, Kan.
W. H. S. Wright.....Imperial High Priest
St. Paul, Minn.
Lou B. Winsor.....Imperial Oriental Guide
Grand Rapids, Mich.
William S. Brown.....Imperial Treasurer
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.
BENJAMIN W. ROWELL.....IMPERIAL RECORDER
28 School Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

APPPOINTED.

Henry C. Akin.....Imperial I Ceremonial Master
Omaha, Neb.
Allen Andrews.....Imperial II Ceremonial Master
Hamilton, Ohio.
Horace K. Blanchard.....Imperial Marshal
Providence, R. I.
George H. Greene.....Imperial Captain of Guard
Dallas, Tex.
George F. White.....Imperial Outer Guard
Davenport, Iowa.

Members ad Vitam:

1 Walter M. Fleming, New York.
2 Sam Briggs, Cleveland, Ohio.
3 William B. Melish, Cincinnati, Ohio.
4 Thomas J. Hudson, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.
5 Chas L. Field, San Francisco, Cal.

Members Emeritus.

1 Albert Rawson, New York.
2 Charles W. Torey, New York.
3 George O. Tyler, Burlington, Vermont.
4 Charles T. McClenachan, New York.

THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL.

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION.

The Imperial gathering of the representatives of the tribes was ordered to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, June 23, 24, 1896.

Being among the servants called as a Representative we were early on the ground. (Having arrived at headquarters June 21). The preparations made by Al-Koran Temple for the entertainment of its guests passes description, and our space prevents giving way to emotions that fill our heart as we pen these lines. Every hour of our stay in Cleveland was filled with pleasure too rich for utterance.

THE PROGRAMME.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON—Carriages were drawn up in front of the Weddell (Headquarters) House, and the guests taken for a ride through the lovely parks of the city. About sunset the line was halted for refreshment at the Roadside Club House; and here the music began. The veterans who were here ten years ago drew up to a table and organized the "O. F's." Much amusement as to whether it meant "Our Fathers," "Old Fellows" or "Old Fossils" was created. At another table "The Kids" organized and in this whirl the editor got the "chaplaincy."

Sam. Briggs was elected to all the offices of the O. F. Harrison Dingman was elected "Father" of the Kids.

The festive visitors were next driven through the city gates at another quarter and landed in Haltworth's Garden (no catnip there) where a sacred concert was in progress in the pavilion and refreshments served in what looked like an ancient rope walk or rather a double length bowling alley. Those who partook said it was splendid and we presume so. The drive to the hotel concluded the pleasures of this evening.

MONDAY—This day witnessed the arrival of most of the Representatives. The El-Kahir party fell into the hands of Noble Frederick William Sears, (Max Beehler had gotten to town) and with his chaperonage we were taken everywhere, including lunch at a Hungarian restaurant, the base ball game and dinner at his private home near Euclid Avenue, where one felt both charmed and entertained. Noble Sears is married to a daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Sherman, of Manchester, Iowa.

TUESDAY—At 9 a. m., the various Arab patrols, all in gorgeous uniforms, headed by bands of music, escorted the Imperial Council to the Masonic Temple, where at 10:30 the Imperial Potentate declared the Council opened for business.

BUSINESS.

From the first roll call to the last act not a moment, hardly a word was wasted; it was simply a rush for the end.

The Imperial Potentate's address was of a chaste, temperate, and amicable turn. There had been no trouble and from the tenor of his address none was imminent. Charles L. has reigned over us as a gentle Potentate and retires respected by all.

The Imperial Recorder's report shows over four thousand of an increase in membership over all losses.

The Reports of the Imperial Recorder and Treasurer were presented, and both showed evidence of the healthy but not plethoric condition of the Imperial purse. Among the recommendations of the Committee of Jurisprudence one was adopted making an Imperial certificate of good standing, countersigned by the Recorder and bearing the seal of the local Temple, necessary to visitation outside one's own tribe. [The Imperial Recorder will have a supply printed and sent out to order of Recorders]. For this privilege the Nobles shall pay to the funds of the Temple the sum of fifty cents.

FORM ADOPTED.

.....Temple:

To All True and Faithful Nobles of the Mystic Shrine:

Know ye that the worthy brother.....who has signed his name in the margin hereof is at the date hereof a member in good standing of.....Temple.

Located at.....in the state of.....

In witness whereof I hereto set my hand and affixed the seal of this Temple this.....day of.....189..

.....Recorder.

[Seal.] .....Temple.

AT REFRESHMENT.

The noon hour was spent in the upper rooms of the Temple where a bounteous repast was served.

At the afternoon session it became evident that business could be dispatched so as to adjourn finally to-day. Things hasted accordingly.

Various reports were presented and adopted.

It was agreed that demitted Nobles could not visit under the new certificate law, after being out one year.—[Nobles who have demits out better come in, out of the rain!]

The election of officers was held, and resulted in the choice of those names at the head of this department.

Six cents per mile was allowed each Representative,—measurement by the shortest route—one way. Ten dollars per day for two days services, [equal an average of $2.50 per diem, as it took four days to come, work and play, and return on the average].

The effort to have triennial instead of annual meetings failed to carry.

The dispensation fee for new Temples was fixed at $100, and the charter fee at $50.

No dispensation is now needed to receive, ballot upon and initiate applicants at stated meetings, when the members are duly notified of the fact. [We think the full meaning of this item will have to await the official minutes when we will publish it].

The first eight officers were made elective, the balance appointive.—["Why?"]

The loss of standing in either of the prerequisite bodies to membership in this Order, carries the effect with it, and the time when either membership began does not prevent its effect.

Detroit, Mich., was fixed upon as the place; June 8, 9, 1897, as the time of next meeting.

The Imperial Recorder's salary was fixed at $200 per month. Six hundred copies of the Imperial Proceedings were ordered printed.

Charters were granted to Phoenix, Ari.; Hartford, Conn.; Savannah, Ga.; Boise City, Idaho, and Charleston, W. Va.

Ahmed Temple was granted exclusive jurisdiction in the upper peninsula of Michigan.

Rameses was decided to have exclusive jurisdiction only in Ontario, and concurrent in other provinces.

Five hundred dollars were voted for the purchase of a suitable jewel for P. I. P. Field.

The petitition of India Temple for jurisdiction over Oklahoma and Indian Territory, was disallowed as contrary to our law.

The Treasurer's compensation was made $200.

The usual complimentary votes were passed.

The Imperial Officers (elective) were installed, and the Imperial Council adjourned.

A great parade was given in the evening; thousands of people lined the streets and the evolutions of the Arab patrols elicited much applause.

The Representatives rode, and the small boy took his revenge by making such remarks as "them's the "gold bugs," "lame ducks," "lazy backs," and "three baggers," while one young lady thought we "had a snap," and she was right.

WEDNESDAY—Came a boat ride at 11:00 a. m.; a base ball game at 3:30 p. m., then hurried good-byes and we started at 6:50 for home. It was without doubt the liveliest and hastiest session we have yet attended.

EL-KAHIR TEMPLE.

As this Journal now reaches every Recorder in America each month, and goes into the hands of a large number of Nobles regularly, we have decided to use this column for such official announcements as may be deemed necessary from time to time.

JNO. W. GEIGER, Recorder.

MISSING NOBLES.

Somewhere amid the sandy wastes of the desert, the following members of El-Kahir have been lost. Recorders of Temples will confer a favor if they will notify us whenever one turns up among his flock.

The names of Nobles are placed on this list when mail addressed from this office is returned as uncalled for or undelivered. This is not a posting list of delinquents, but a request for information about missing Nobles of this Temple. Our own Nobles can aid us by giving information about either of the following:

NAMES.	LAST POST-OFFICE.
Herbert L. Sill,	Chicago, Ill.
A. G. Smith,	Ft. Collins, Col.
A. F. Graham,	Mason City, Iowa.
Edw. N. Pickering,	Boston, Mass.
Rollin E. Smith,	Spokane, Wash.
Guy H. Strong,	Duluth, Minn.
H. T. Lauderbach,	St. Charles, La.

ABOUT MISSING NOBLES.

Numerous responses have come to our inquiries about Missing Nobles, but letters still continue to be "returned to writer" for all whose names are "on the list this month." Some are and others "are not" in good standing. Recorders will do well to demand the passports of visitors.

IMPERIAL PASSPORTS.

As will be seen in the Imperial Council Proceedings an order has been passed that Nobles who desire to visit will be required to produce a certificate, issued by the Imperial Council and countersigned by the Recorder of your local Temple FOR THE CURRENT YEAR. It will cost fifty cents. All Nobles of El-Kahir whose dues are paid within thirty days will get one FREE for the balance of 1896.

TO RECORDERS.

El-Kahir Temple issues a Passport to all her nobles who are in good standing—*good to the 31st of December following.* We will consider it a favor if such Passports are honored when they bear the official seal of this Temple.

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